

REMARKS

No new matter has been added by the amendments. In general, the amendments are to remove multiple dependencies from claims 3-5, 16 and 18, and to place the claims into a format consistent with U.S. patent practice.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments to the claims.

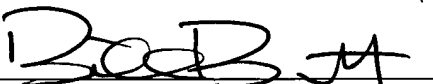
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

A \$1170.00 check for the filing fee is enclosed. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency of payment associated with this Communication, or to credit any overpayment, to **Deposit Account No. 13-4365.**

Respectfully submitted,

MOORE & VAN ALLEN PLLC

Date: 1-Oct.-04

By: 

William A. Barrett
Registration No. 42,296
Moore & Van Allen
2200 West Main Street
Suite 800
Durham, NC 27705
Telephone: (919) 286-8000
Facsimile: (919) 286-8199